

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for integrating a network application with different directory servers, each server having a different schema, the method comprising:

providing a table mapping attributes utilized by the network application with attribute names used by directory servers available to the application;

identifying in the table the directory server attribute name corresponding to an attribute requested by the application;

sending a request containing the identified directory server attribute name to the corresponding directory server; and

receiving information in response to the request.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the application is a unified communication application.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the directory servers are configured for LDAP.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the number of different directory servers is greater than two.

5 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising running an IP based software.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein sending a request comprises sending a search request.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein sending a request comprises sending a messaging request.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising loading the table into memory when the application is run.

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9. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing meta-data specifying the directory servers available to the application.

10. A computer program product for integrating a network application with different directory servers, comprising:

code that provides a table mapping attributes utilized by the network application with attribute names used by the directory servers available to the application;

code that identifies in the table the directory server attribute name corresponding to an attribute requested by the application;

code that sends a request containing the identified directory server attribute name to the corresponding directory server;

code that receives information in response to the request; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes.

11. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising code that accesses meta-data specifying directory servers available to the application.

12. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising code that loads the table at least temporarily into memory when the application runs.

13. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, hard drive, and data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

5 14. A system for integrating a network application with different directory servers, the system comprising:

 a table mapping attributes utilized by the network application with attribute names used by the directory servers;

 memory that at least temporarily stores the table; and

10 a processor that identifies in the table the directory server attribute name corresponding to an attribute requested by the application and sends a request containing the identified directory server attribute name to the corresponding directory server.

15 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the application is a unified communication application.

 16. The system of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to send the request to an LDAP server.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein the application is configured to communicate with a messaging server.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein the application is configured for communicating with a SNPP API.

19. A system for integrating a network application with different directory servers, the system comprising:

a table mapping attributes utilized by the network application with attribute names used by directory servers available to the application;

means for identifying in the table the directory server attribute name corresponding to an attribute requested by the application; and

means for searching the directory server for the requested attribute with the identified directory server attribute name.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein means for searching the directory server comprises:

sending a request with the attribute name corresponding to schema for one of the directory servers to the corresponding directory server and receiving information in response to the request.

5 21. The system of claim 19 wherein the application is a unified communications application.

22. The system of claim 19 wherein means for searching the directory server includes using LDAP.

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